

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAIGON 12811 182053Z

62

ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 PM-03 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 PRS-01 DPW-01 EUR-10

IO-03 RSR-01 /068 W

----- 121086

R 161320Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4669

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 12811

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT. MILI VS

SUBJECT: MR 3 WEEKLY SITREP JULY 8 - 14

THE FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM AMCONSUL BIEN HOA DATED JULY 13
IS REPEATED HERE FOR YOUR ACTION/ INFO:

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BIEN HOA 0289

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT MILI VS

SUBJECT: MR3 WEEKLY SITREP-JULY 8-14 1973

1. MILITARY CLASHES INCREASED SHARPLY TO 126 DURING WEEK ENDING
0800 JULY 13, COMPARED WITH 69 PREVIOUS WEEK. INCIDENTS INCLUDED
39 GROUND CONTACTS, 47 ATTACKS BY FIRE (SEVEN OVER 20 ROUNDS),
THREE COORDINATED GROUND AND FIRE ATTACKS, 33 MINE OR GRENADE
DETONATIONS (INCLUDING THREE WHICH WOUNDED CIVILIANS AND WHICH
WERE NOT COUNTED IN OUR JULY 9 SITREP), THREE ATTEMPTED ASSASSINA-
TIONS OF GVN OFFICIALS, AND UNSUCCESSFUL SABOTAGE ATTEMPT
ON ONG CO BRIDGE IN BINH DUONG PROVINCE. TOTAL GVN CASUALTIES
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAIGON 12811 182053Z

WERE 22 KILLED (SIX CIVILIANS), 98 WOUNDED (FIVE CIVILIANS),

AND FIVE REPORTED MISSING IN ACTION. (GVN FAILED TO REPORT HEAVY CASUALTIES AND MIA FROM ACTIONS ABOVE PHU GIAO, SEE BELOW). REPORTED COMMUNIST LOSSES WERE 73 KILLED (INCLUDING FIVE FOUND DEAD IN A TUNNEL AND KILLED BY ARTILLERY NORTHEAST OF PHU GIAO), SIX CAPTURED, ELEVEN RALLIERS, AND A QUANTITY OF WEAPONS AND EQUIPMENT. FIVE ARVN SOLDIERS WERE REPORTED TO HAVE RETURNED TO RVNAF UNITS IN TAY NINH PROVINCE AFTER HAVING ESCAPED FROM COMMUNIST POW CAMPS DURING EARLY PART OF REPORTING PERIOD. THIRTY-THREE OF CLASHES WERE IN BINH DUONG PROVINCE, 18 IN PHUOC LONG, 17 IN LONG AN, 15 IN TAY NINH, 10 EACH IN LONG KHANH AND HAU NGHIA, SEVEN IN PHUOC TUY, SIX IN BIEN HOA, AND TWO IN BINH LONG.

2. PRINCIPAL MILITARY CONFRONTATION IN MR3 WAS RVNAF ATTEMPT TO OPEN INTERPORVINCIAL ROUTE 1-A BETWEEN PHU GIAO DISTRICT TOWN, BINH DUONG PROVINCE, AND DON LUAN DISTRICT TOWN (DONG XOAI), AND TO HOLD OPEN NATIONAL HIGHWAY 14 BETWEEN DON LUAN AND JUNCTION WITH ROUTE 311, IN ORDER TO PERMIT MILITARY CONVOY TO PASS TO SONG BE-PHUOC BINH AREA. NINTH AND 7TH REGIMENTS OF 5TH ARVN DIVISION (MR3' WORST) ARE REPORTED TO HAVE FARED BADLY IN COMBAT WITH MAIN FORCE NVA ELEMENTS ABOVE PHU GIAO. THEY ARE TRAPPED ON 1-A WITH ONE BATTALION CAPTURED OR MISSING AND ANOTHER COMPANY DECIMATED, ANDMR3 CG LTG MINH TOLD CONGEN HE WOULD THROW ELEMENTS OF 18TH DIVISION, AS WELL AS AIRSTRIKES, INTO AREA TO BREAK NVA HOLD ON THE ROAD AND RESCUE THE 5TH. MEANWHILE, ON HIGHWAY 14, 84TH AND 73RD RANGER BATTALIONS ARE UNDER SPORADIC ATTACK FROM COMMUNIST ELEMENTS. IN SONG BE-PHUOC BINH AREA, RICE IS SO SHORT THAT PRDC HAS REQUESTED EMERGENCY 200 TON AIRLIFT, AND OTHER BASIC COMMODITIES AND POL ARE SCARCE. IT IS FAR FROM CERTAIN THAT GVN WILL SUCCEED IN OPENING ROAD EVEN LONG ENOUGH FOR CONVOY TO GET THROUGH, AND EVEN IF THEY DO, THEY WILL PAY HEAVY MILITARY PRICE.

3. THERE ARE SEVERAL SIGNS OF FLAGGING ARVN MORALE IN MR3, WHERE TROOPS HAVE TENDED TO BE RELUCTANT TO FIGHT EVEN IN WARTIME, AND ARE VIRTUALLY REFUSING TO DO SO IN POST-COMMUNIQUE QUASI-PEACETIME. NORTH OF PHU GIAO ONE COMPANY OF 9TH REGIMENT OF 5TH DIVISION HAS APPARENTLY SURRENDERED TO COMMUNISTS AFTER HARDLY PUTTING UP A FIGHT, WHILE OTHER COMPANIES IN SAME BATTALION OF 9TH RAN AWAY. WE HAVE HEARD THAT IN PHUOC LONG, 73RD RANGER

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SAIGON 12811 182053Z

BATTALION COMMANDER HAD DEVELOPED COZY ACCOMMODATION WITH NEARBY NVA ELEMENT, AND HAD TAKEN WALK IN JUNGLE WHEN ORDERED BY PROVINCE CHIEF TO OPERATE AGAINST HIS NEW FRIENDS. WHEN PROVINCE CHIEF ORDERED 73RD AND 84TH TO CLEAR HIGHWAY 14 THEY FLED AFTER ONLY BRIEF CONTACT WITH COMMUNIST FORCES, UNTIL PROVINCE CHIEF HOVERING OVERHEAD IN HELICOPTER GUNSHIP ORDERED THEM ONCE MORE INTO THE BREACH. IN TONLE CHAM RANGER BASE CAMP, HEROIC 92ND RANGERS WHO HAD SURVIVED FOUR MONTHS OF COMMUNIST SHELLING AND

PROPAGANDA, COULDN'T UNDERSTAND WHY THEY WERE STILL THERE AFTER SIGNING OF JOINT COMMUNIQUE. MORALE PROBLEM BECAME SO BAD THAT PRESIDENT THIEU AUTHORIZED ROTATION OF ENTIRE BATTALION, WHICH WAS TO BE COMPLETED BEFORE JULY 25. BUT ONLY ONE HELICOPTER HAS SUCCEEDED IN GETTING INTO TONLE CHAM ON JULY 9, AGAINST COMMUNIST ANTI-AIRCRAFT FIRE. THUS GVN POST-COMMUNIQUE AGGRESSIVENESS IN MR3 MAY IN NEAR FUTURE BE CURBED, NOT BY AMERICAN REMONSTRATIONS, BUT BY RELUCTANCE OF ITS OWN TROOPS TO FIGHT.

4. ICCS XUAN LOC CANDEL CPTS, PATTEN AND THOMPSON HAVE NOT YET RETURNED TO THEIR ANXIOUS COMRADES, BUT AT LEAST PRG HAS ACKNOWLEDGED THEY ARE HOLDING THEM, ALIVE AND WELL. REGION V CANDELS HAVE BEEN CUT COMPLETELY OUT OF ACTION, WHICH IS BEING DIRECTED FROM SAIGON, AND INSTRUCTED NOT TO TALK TO REPORTERS OR NOSY US CONSULS. CANDEL V CHIEF COL. MORROW DID REVEAL TO CONGEN THAT REGARDLESS OF RELEASE OF CPTS, PATTEN AND THOMPSON, HIS WITHDRAWAL SCHEDULE CALLS FOR PULLOUT OF SUB-REGIONAL TEAMS JULY 24, COMPLETION OF BUSINESS IN BIEN HOA JULY 25, AND MOVEMENT OF ALL REGION V CANDELS TO SAIGON JULY 26.

WALKNSHAW
UNQUOTE. APPLING

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 JUL 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973SAIGON12811
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS APPLING
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730731/aaaaawsh.tel
Line Count: 137
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06-Dec-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <28-Dec-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MR 3 WEEKLY SITREP JULY 8 - 14 THE FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM AMCONSUL BIEN HOA DATED JULY 13
TAGS: PINS, PINT, MILI, VS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005